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Groups of countries in special situations: follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries

South Africa:* draft resolution

Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Vienna Declaration and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024,[1] adopted at the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, held in Vienna from 3 to 5 November 2014, at which all relevant stakeholders expressed their commitment to the implementation of the Programme of Action,

Reaffirming the overarching goal of the Vienna Programme of Action of addressing the special development needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries arising from their landlockedness, remoteness and geographical constraints in a more coherent manner and thus contributing to an enhanced rate of sustainable and inclusive growth, which can contribute to the eradication of poverty by moving towards the goal of ending extreme poverty,

Recalling its resolutions 69/137 of 12 December 2014 and 69/232 of 19 December 2014,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[2]

Recalling further the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in 2012, entitled "The future we want",[3]

* On behalf of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] Resolution 69/137, annexes I and II.

[2] Resolution 55/2.

[3] Resolution 66/288, annex.

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Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", recognizing that it builds on the Millennium Development Goals and seeks to complete their unfinished business, and stressing the importance of the implementation of this new ambitious Agenda, which has poverty eradication at its core and aims at promoting the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it and helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions within the framework of a revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development,

Reaffirming further the Sendai Declaration and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030,[4] while recognizing that landlocked developing countries face some specific disaster risk challenges, and reiterating the commitment to address disaster risk reduction and building resilience to disasters within the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication,

Mindful of the Almaty Declaration[5] and the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries,[6]

Recognizing that the lack of territorial access to the sea, aggravated by remoteness from world markets and high transit costs and risks, continues to impose serious constraints on export earnings, private capital inflow and domestic resource mobilization of landlocked developing countries and therefore adversely affects their overall growth and socioeconomic development,

Recognizing also the special vulnerabilities and needs of landlocked developing countries in terms of access to energy and the need to promote both public and private investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technologies,

Stressing the importance of the effective participation of landlocked developing countries in the Sustainable Energy for All initiative and in Expo 2017, which will be held in Astana and which will focus on the theme, "Future Energy",

Acknowledging the need to promote meaningful regional integration to encompass cooperation among countries and the importance of enhancing existing transport infrastructure facilities for the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action,

Recognizing that the Vienna Programme of Action is based on renewed and strengthened partnerships to accompany landlocked developing countries in

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[4] Resolution 69/283, annexes I and II.

[5] *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003* (A/CONF.202/3), annex II.

[6] Ibid., annex I.

harnessing benefits from international trade, structurally transforming their economies and achieving more inclusive and sustainable growth,

Noting the Livingstone Call for Action for the Accelerated Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries, adopted at the high-level follow-up ministerial meeting to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, held in Livingstone, Zambia, in June 2015,

Noting with appreciation the declaration of the high-level meeting of Heads of State and Government of landlocked developing countries on the theme "Linking Landlocked Developing Countries to Global Opportunities", held at United Nations Headquarters on 28 September 2015,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024;[7]

2. *Welcomes* the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[8] which, inter alia, recognizes the specific challenges of landlocked developing countries in their pursuit of eradication of poverty and sustainable development;

3. *Affirms* the complementarity between the Sustainable Development Goals contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the important provisions of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,[9] and the six priority areas of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024,[10] and stresses that effective implementation of these plans of action would drive the social and economic progress of the landlocked developing countries and assist in the transformation of their economies from landlocked to land-linked countries;

4. *Recognizes* that landlocked developing countries face special needs and challenges in their efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals, and in that regard underscores the importance of adequate international support, in various forms, that is well-aligned with their national priorities to address the special development needs of landlocked developing countries;

5. *Urges* Member States to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action into their national and sectoral development strategies in order to ensure its effective implementation;

6. *Urges* development partners to provide targeted technical and financial support, as appropriate, towards the implementation of the specific actions listed in the Vienna Programme of Action;

7. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and invites international organizations, such as the World Bank, the regional development banks, the World Trade Organization, the World Customs

[7] A/70/305.
[8] Resolution 70/1.
[9] Resolution 69/313, annex.
[10] Resolution 69/137, annex II.

Organization, the Common Fund for Commodities, regional economic integration organizations and other relevant regional and subregional organizations, to integrate the Vienna Programme of Action into their programmes of work, within their respective mandates, and to support landlocked and transit developing countries in the implementation of the Programme of Action in a well-coordinated and coherent manner;

8. *Appreciates* the efforts made by the governing bodies of the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action;

9. *Invites* the landlocked developing countries, transit countries, their development partners, the United Nations system and all other actors to implement the actions that have been agreed upon in the Vienna Programme of Action in its six priority areas, namely, fundamental transit policy issues, infrastructure development and maintenance, international trade and trade facilitation, regional integration and cooperation, structural economic transformation and means of implementation at all levels, in a coordinated, coherent and expeditious manner;

10. *Stresses* the need for landlocked developing countries and transit countries to enhance coordination and cooperation between their national agencies responsible for border and customs controls and procedures;

11. *Also stresses* the need to promote the harmonization of rules through the full and effective implementation of international conventions on transport and transit and of bilateral, subregional and regional agreements;

12. *Underlines* the critical importance of developing adequate and reliable infrastructure, including transit transport infrastructure, information and communications technology infrastructure and energy infrastructure, within landlocked developing countries in order to reduce high trading costs, improve connectivity and competitiveness and full integration in the global economy, taking into account national realities and capacities as well as the special needs caused by geographical disadvantage;

13. *Welcomes* the decision in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda to launch a new global infrastructure forum, and stresses the need for this forum to address the special development needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries;

14. *Calls upon* the international community and development partners to support infrastructure development in the landlocked developing countries through all sources, including public, private, public-private partnerships, official development assistance and innovative sources, in order to support national efforts to bridge the existing infrastructure gap and close missing links, which remain central to the successful implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action;

15. *Calls upon* multilateral financial and development institutions and regional development banks to provide the landlocked developing countries with targeted access to long-term financing at concessional and affordable rates for infrastructure development and maintenance, including the establishment of special window borrowing facilities for landlocked developing countries;

16. *Underlines* the importance of international trade and trade facilitation as one of the priorities of the Vienna Programme of Action, and reaffirms that the

greater integration of landlocked developing countries into world trade and global value chains is vital to increasing their competitiveness and efficiency and ensuring their economic development;

17. *Calls for* the balanced, ambitious and development-oriented outcome of the Doha Development Agenda,[11] consistent with the development mandate of the negotiations, and requests that the special needs, challenges and vulnerabilities of landlocked developing countries be taken fully into account;

18. *Invites* members of the World Trade Organization to consider early ratification of the World Trade Organization trade facilitation agreement as soon as possible, in order to bring it into force so as to improve trade facilitation and reduce trade transaction costs;

19. *Calls upon* the international community to provide the adequate technical and financial assistance necessary to help landlocked developing countries to realize the full benefits of the trade facilitation agreement, and to support the ultimate goal of full implementation of this new agreement;

20. *Stresses* the need to provide attention to the concerns and needs of the landlocked developing countries within the framework of the World Trade Organization, as appropriate, in order to increase their participation in the multilateral trading system, and in this regard invites the members of the World Trade Organization to consider exploring the possibility of a work programme which would focus primarily, but not exclusively, on the areas of trade facilitation, trade diversification, services, aid for trade, electronic commerce and accession to the World Trade Organization, in a manner consistent with its guidelines;

21. *Reaffirms* that non-physical barriers, delays and inefficiencies associated with border crossings and ports continue to make transport costs high, and in this regard recognizes that further streamlining and harmonization of customs and transit procedures and formalities and transparent and efficient border management and coordination of agencies involved in border clearance would have a concrete and direct impact on reducing the cost of doing trade and stimulating faster and more competitive trade for landlocked developing countries;

22. *Calls upon* development partners to effectively implement the Aid for Trade initiative, giving adequate consideration to the special needs and requirements of landlocked developing countries, including capacity-building for the formulation of trade policies, participation in trade negotiations and the implementation of trade facilitation measures, as well as the diversification of export products;

23. *Calls upon* international and regional organizations, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the World Bank, the World Customs Organization and the regional development banks, to establish special programmes and dedicated windows for the landlocked developing countries in order to assist them with the execution and scaling-up of trade facilitation initiatives and the effective implementation of international, regional and subregional conventions and other legal instruments on transit and trade facilitation;

24. *Calls upon* the international community to support the promotion of meaningful regional integration and cooperation among countries in a broader range

[11] See A/C.2/56/7, annex.

of areas, beyond trade and trade facilitation, to include investment, research and development and policies and projects aimed at accelerating regional industrial development and regional connectivity;

25. *Recognizes* that the economies of many landlocked developing countries are still reliant on a few export commodities, which often have low value addition, and calls upon the international community and the development partners to enhance efforts to support landlocked developing countries in diversifying their economic base, to encourage, on mutually agreed terms, the transfer of technologies, including information and communications technology, and to enhance value addition to their exports through the development of their productive capacities, including through private sector involvement, and the development of small- and medium-sized enterprises, with a view to increasing the competitiveness of the products of landlocked developing countries in export markets, and in this regard, welcomes the launching of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda;

26. *Stresses* the importance of promoting structural economic transformation in landlocked developing countries to build their productive capacity, and in this regard calls upon the international community to support their efforts towards economic and export diversification, increasing value addition in their manufacturing and agriculture sectors and the development of the service sectors, finance, information and communications technology and sustainable tourism;

27. *Underlines* the prominent role that foreign direct investment plays in accelerating development and poverty reduction through employment, the transfer of managerial and technological know-how and non-debt-creating flows of capital, recognizes the considerable role and potential of private sector involvement in infrastructure development for transport, telecommunications and utilities for landlocked developing countries, encourages Member States to facilitate foreign direct investment flows to landlocked developing countries in this regard, and calls upon landlocked and transit developing countries to promote an enabling environment to attract foreign direct investment and private sector involvement;

28. *Expresses concern* that the economic growth and social well-being of landlocked developing countries remain highly vulnerable to external shocks and to the multiple challenges faced by the international community, and invites the international community to assist landlocked developing countries in resolving their challenges and strengthening their resilience in their effort towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the six priorities of the Vienna Programme of Action;

29. *Recognizes* the adverse impacts of climate change, land degradation, desertification and deforestation on the economies of landlocked developing countries, and calls upon the international community to enhance support for the efforts of landlocked developing countries to address these challenges in an integrated manner, including undertaking further research on the impacts of climate change in landlocked developing countries;

30. *Urges* those landlocked developing countries that have not yet done so to accede to or to ratify, at their earliest convenience, the Multilateral Agreement for the Establishment of an International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries in order to fully operationalize the think tank;

31. *Invites* the developing countries, guided by the spirit of solidarity and consistent with their capabilities, to provide support for the effective implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in mutually agreed areas of cooperation within the framework of South-South cooperation, which is a complement to, but not a substitute for, North-South cooperation;

32. *Urges* all development partners for sustainable development to provide and to strengthen their targeted support and assistance to landlocked developing countries to develop and improve their national institutional and human capacities and capabilities for data collection, analysis and dissemination;

33. *Invites* the private sector to contribute to the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in the respective areas of competence and in line with the national priorities of the landlocked developing countries;

34. *Stresses* that the specific needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries should be given due consideration in the follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

35. *Underlines* the importance of successful implementation, follow-up and review of the Vienna Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels;

36. *Stresses* that, in accordance with the mandate given by the General Assembly, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States will ensure the coordinated follow-up to, effective monitoring of and reporting on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and will undertake advocacy efforts at the national, regional and global levels, and also stresses that the Office, in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders, should work on developing relevant indicators for measuring the progress on implementing the Programme of Action in landlocked developing countries, within their existing mandates;

37. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, highlighting the progress made by the landlocked developing countries with regard to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda;

38. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session, under the item entitled "Groups of countries in special situations", the sub-item entitled "Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries".